

July 23, 2004

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to add my voice to the growing number of groups and individuals **opposed** to efforts by the local Bell telephone companies to circumvent current rules on calls placed with a pre-paid calling card. If they succeed, it will result in higher rates – in many cases, dramatically higher rates – for consumers who place the calls. As you approach your work on this docket, I implore you to keep the needs of consumers in mind rather than the pleadings of the four Bell companies.

The Bell companies want to target those calls in which a caller uses a pre-paid calling card and dials a toll-free number, along with his or her PIN. The caller, who may be in Virginia, for example, is connected to a “platform” in another state -- let’s say in Nebraska. From this “platform,” he or she hears a message about a company, non-profit or person. The caller then dials the telephone number of someone in Virginia. Current rules, as well as common sense, state that this represents two calls, one from Virginia to Nebraska and one from Nebraska to Virginia. Both calls are subject to interstate access charges because there is a call to Nebraska and then a separate call to Virginia.

But the Bell companies want to treat this as a single in-state call so they can levy exorbitant in-state access charges. Such fees have no relationship whatsoever to the Bell companies’ actual costs, which are only a fraction of what they want to charge consumers.

Prices are already rising for gas, milk and other products. Consumers don’t need higher prices for phone calls too, especially when these higher rates represent a blatant giveaway to four large corporations.

I am aware that the long distance companies and others that sell pre-paid calling cards have weighed in with the FCC in an effort to protect their customers’ interests in this manner. It is now time for the FCC to weigh in on the side of consumers and show the Bell companies the door on this issue.

Sincerely,



ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

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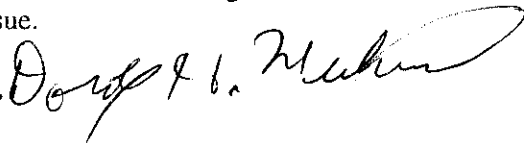
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Sincerely,

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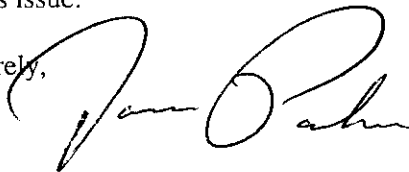
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon O'Brien", written over the word "Sincerely,".

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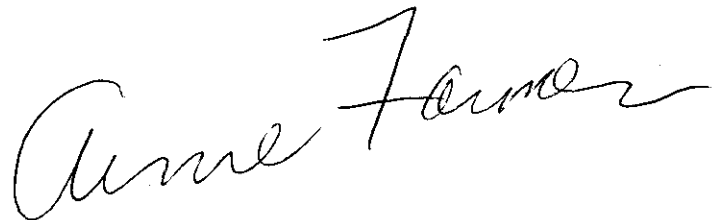
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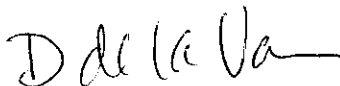
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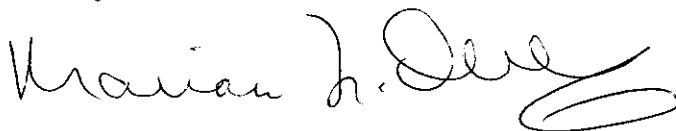
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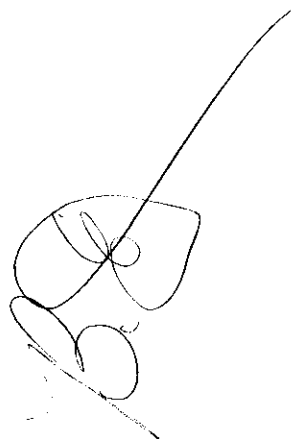
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Sincerely,

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "K. Q. Abernathy", written over a faint circular stamp or seal.

July 23, 2004

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 03-133

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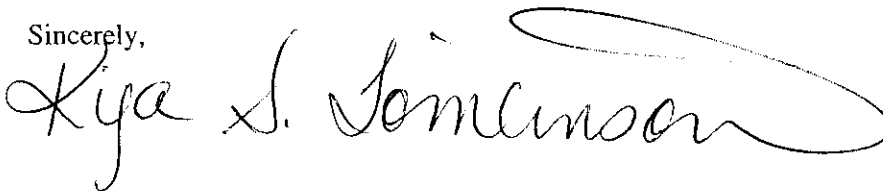
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kya S. Tomlinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping loop at the end of the last name.

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein



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Federal Communications Commission  
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kevin J. Martin". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

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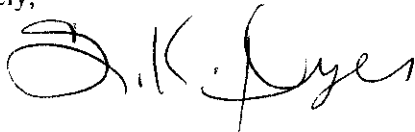
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.K. Feyer". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

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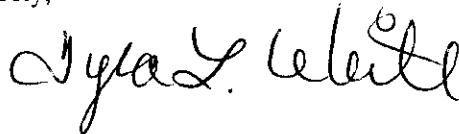
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David S. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "D" and "W".

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Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

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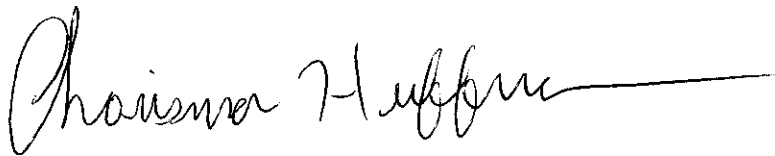
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chairman Haffner", followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

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*Dino Helis*

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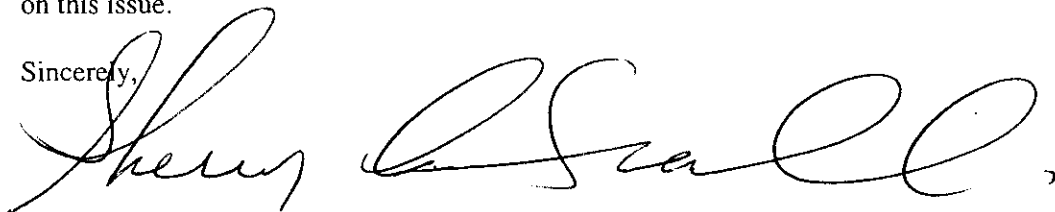
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sherry A. Small". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized "S" at the beginning and a long, sweeping underline.

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin  
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein



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Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein